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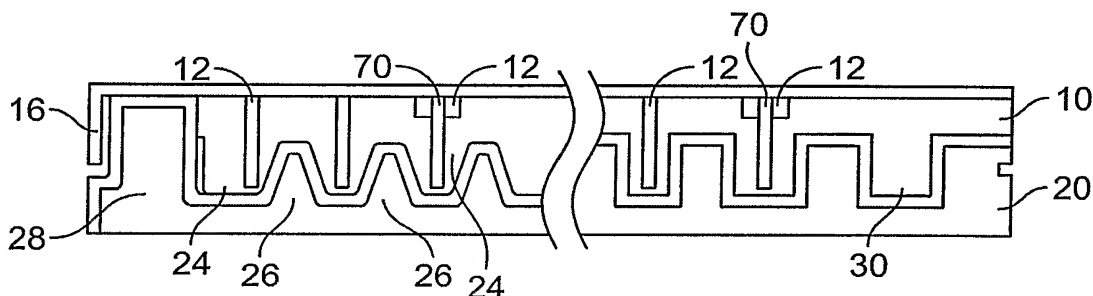
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MICROBIAL GROWTH ASSAY



(57) Abstract: Susceptibility of sessile microorganisms to antimicrobial agents is tested with a method comprising growing the microorganisms on a support to form a biofilm, contacting the biofilm with a metabolic substrate having a chromogenic and/or fluorogenic moiety to continue a base-line metabolic activity of the biofilm, contacting the biofilm with one or more antimicrobial agents, determining an experimental metabolic activity of the biofilm by measuring a signal from the metabolic substrate, and comparing the base-line metabolic activity with the experimental activity. The biofilm may be grown in a device comprising a plurality of wells, each well having a planar bottom and at least on wall, a plurality of supports comprising discs for growing the biofilm, each support disposed within a well perpendicular to the planar bottom, and at least one cover that fitably seals the top of each well.

WO 2005/098023 A1



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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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